AN

EXTRACT

FROM

JOHN WOOLMAN's

JOURNAL in MANUSCRIPT,

CONCERNING THE

MINISTRY.

ON this Visit to *England*, I have felt some Instructions sealed on my Mind, which I am concerned to leave in Writing, for the Use of such who are called to the Station of a Minister of Christ.

Christ being the Prince of Peace, and we being no more than Ministers, I find it necessary

neceſſary for us, not only to feel a Concern in our firſt going forth, but to experience the Renewing thereof, in the Appointment of Meetings.

I felt a Concern in *America*, to prepare for this Voyage; and being through the Mercy of God, brought ſafe here, my Heart was like a Veſſel that wanted Vent; and for ſeveral Weeks at firſt, when my Mouth was opened in Meetings, it often felt like the Raiſing of a Gate in a Water Courſe, where a Weight of Water lay upon it; and in theſe Labours there appeared a freſh Viſitation to many, eſpecially the Youth; but ſometimes after this, I felt empty and poor, and yet felt a Neceſſity to appoint Meetings.

In this State I was exerciſed to abide in the pure Life of Truth, and in all my La-

bours

bours to watch diligently againſt the Motions of Self in my own Mind.

I have frequently felt a Neceſſity to ſtand up, when the Spring of the Miniſtry was low, and to ſpeak from the Neceſſity, in that which ſubjecteth the Will of the Creature; and herein I was united with the ſuffering Seed, and found inward Sweetneſs in theſe mortifying Labours.

As I have been preſerved in a watchful Attention to the Divine Leader, under theſe Diſpenſations, Enlargement at Times hath followed, and the Power of Truth hath roſe higher in ſome Meetings, than I ever knew it before through me.

Thus I have been more and more inſtructed, as to the Neceſſity of depending, not upon a Concern which I felt in *America*, to come on a Viſit to *England*; but upon

upon the freſh Inſtructions of Chriſt the Prince of Peace, from Day to Day.

Now of late, I felt a Stop in the Appointment of Meetings, not wholly but in part; and I do not feel Liberty to appoint them ſo quick one after another as I have heretofore.

The Work of the Miniſtry, being a Work of Divine Love, I feel that the Openings thereof are to be waited for, in all our Appointments.

Oh how deep is Divine Wiſdom! Chriſt puts forth his Miniſters, and goeth before them; and Oh how great is the Danger of departing from the pure Feeling of that which leadeth ſafely!

Chriſt knoweth the State of the People, and in the pure Feeling of the Goſpel Miniſtry,

Miniſtry, their States are opened to his Servants.

Chriſt knoweth when the Fruit-bearing Branches themſelves have need of purging.

Oh that theſe Leſſons may be remembered by me! and that all who appoint Meetings, may proceed in the pure Feeling of Duty.

I have ſometimes felt a Neceſſity to ſtand up, but that Spirit which is of the World hath ſo much prevailed in many, and the pure Life of Truth been ſo preſſed down, that I have gone forward; not as one travelling in a Road caſt up, and well prepared, but as a Man walking through a miry Place, in which are Stones here and there, ſafe to ſtep on; but ſo ſituated that one Step being taken, Time is neceſſary to ſee where to ſtept next.

Now

Now I find that in the pure Obedience, the Mind learns Contentment, in appearing weak and fooliſh to that Wiſdom which is of the World; and in theſe lowly Labours, they who ſtand in a low Place, rightly exerciſed under the Croſs, will find Nouriſhment.

The Gift is pure, and while the Eye is ſingle in attending thereto, the Underſtanding is preſerved clear; Self is kept out; we rejoice in filling up that which remains of the Afflictions of Chriſt, for his Body's Sake, which is the Church.

The natural Man loveth Eloquence, and many love to hear eloquent Orations; and if there is not a careful Attention to the Gift, Men who have once labour'd in the pure Goſpel Miniſtry, growing weary of Suffering, and aſhamed of appearing weak, may kindle a Fire, compaſs themſelves about

about with Sparks, and walk in the Light; not of Chriſt who is under Suffering; but of that Fire, which they, going from the Gift, have kindled: And that in Hearers, which is gone from the meek ſuffering State, into the worldly Wiſdom, may be warmed with this Fire, and ſpeak highly of theſe Labours. That which is of God gathers to God; and that which is of the World is owned by the World.

In this Journey a Labour hath attended my Mind, that the Miniſters amongſt us may be preſerved in the meek feeling Life of Truth, where we may have no Deſire, but to follow Chriſt and be with him; that when he is under Suffering we may ſuffer with him; and never deſire to riſe up in Dominion, but as he by the Virtue of his own Spirit may raiſe us.

FINIS.

In this Journey a Labour hath attended my Mind, that the Ministers among us may be preserved in the meek feeling Life or Truth, where we may have no Desire, but to follow Christ and be with him; that when he is under Suffering we may suffer with him; and never desire to rise up in Dominion, but as he by the Virtue of his own Spirit may raise us.

FINIS